



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING JANUARY 17, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absence

Rita Hall

Others Present

Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services Division
Audra Galang, Staff, Commission Services Division

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 10, 2007 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Bacio, and unanimously carried, the minutes of January 10, 2007 were approved with the following corrections:

On Page 3, FACILITY /GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS

Renaissance Unlimited #1 – 92, #2 *second sentence*; ~~kids~~ **clients** have marginal report cards – torn rug; termite damaged; walls decorated with pictures **from the movie “Godfather”**.

On Page 4, Compton Courthouse

2. 5th sentence. A \$500 fine **was threatened in the event of noncompliance** for each time that an employee is exposed.

8. and ~~mice~~ mice

On Page 5, Compton Courthouse

11.~~at~~ in the interview room.

On Page 5, Casa Editha Foundation 2nd sentence..... this ~~fabulous~~ facility **that treats severely developmental disabled children** on January 4, 2007 ~~and found~~.
This facility is not included in the **DCFS current listing of group homes**.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano reported on the passing of former Commissioner James Cragin. After a brief discussion, the Commission agreed to wait for further information on what is appropriate for donation in lieu of flowers for the Cragin family.

Chair Montano reported the following articles from the Los Angeles Times:

1. *"Why L.A. jail cells have revolving doors"*, December 26, 2006.
2. *"No easy fix for the jail system"*, December 30, 2006.
3. *"Supervisors OK payouts over county jail lawsuits"*, January 17, 2007.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,048.50.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Sandra Barbee, Chief of Commission Services Division, reported the following:

1. Three Commissioners have not submitted copies of their Certificates of Attendance for the AB1234-Ethics Training. Ms. Barbee requested a copy of each Certificate of Attendance be furnished for the Commission's file and stated that she will get a copy of the certificates from the Department of Human Resources if they are not available;
2. Ms. Barbee asked the Commissioners of their interest in attending the Aviva Conference. Vice Chair Stathatos rescinded her request to attend the Aviva Conference and opted to attend the Nexus/ICAN Conference;
3. She deposited the Commission's donation check of \$200 in Demetria Ward's Memorial Fund and provided a copy of the deposit receipt to the Treasurer.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none. Chair Montano shared the Audit Reports from the Auditor-Controller's Office with the Commission for review.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS

Zenith Youth Home – 114, #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on January 16, 2007 and found the following areas of concern: water damage in hallway because of a leaky roof; the house needs painting and cleaning; menu was not posted; they found limited groceries; the beds need replacement (mattresses and box springs collapsed); dressers need replacement (broken drawers); there were children's clothes on the floor in their bedrooms and closets

and clothes were stacked on floor; and, the lint trap needs cleaning. The Commissioners and the appropriate department representatives will revisit the home in 30 days for inspection.

Inglewood Superior Court

Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore visited this facility on January 11, 2007 and found the following areas of concern: inmates' refrigerator has been out of order for two months (work order in but not completed); lockup cell walls need painting; no panic buttons in the lockup; need more lockup segregation cells; they found one rodent; and a shortage of staff (2).

Inglewood Juvenile Court

Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore visited this facility on January 11, 2007 and reported the following areas of concern: very small office area; it has three cells – one downstairs, one at the side, and one upstairs; no visual/cameras for inmates; no suicide kits, replace water fountain in the main lockup; and needs painting and general cleaning in the whole area.

Los Cerritos Superior Court

(Bellflower)

Commissioners Bacio and Hall visited this newer courthouse on January 16, 2007 and found the following areas of concern: there is a need of additional staff to process releases; need a new fax machine, copier machine and a repeater radio; sally port needs a sensor; custody elevator breaks down frequently creating a security problem and lockups 3 and 4 need additional suicide kit.

Five Acres – 27, #4

Vice Chair Stathatos visited this facility on January 11, 2007 and found it has eight cottages with 10 children in each unit. All cottage windows were replaced with heavy safety glass. In every cottage, there is a computer lab and the furniture has just been replaced with new cushions and has new curtains throughout. The facility is viewed as one of the "Stars of Los Angeles County". The facility received unusually generous donations during their Christmas party enabling all requests to be fulfilled. On December 17, 2006, the Five Acres was featured in a 60-min TV program entitled, "*Loneliest People*".

Five Acres – 27, #3

Vice Chair Stathatos visited this facility on January 12, 2007 and found it has a very nice neighborhood and in excellent condition. According to DCFS requirement, each girl had a "Client Orientation Manual" containing rights and obligations.

Five Acres – 27, #2

Vice Chair Stathatos visited this facility on January 16, 2007 and found it has a very nice neighborhood but no one was home.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano shared inspection assignments with the Commissioners for the following week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Barbee
Chief, Commission Services Division